## THE LABORATORIES OF THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH, 66TH STREET AND AVENUE A, NEW YORK.

New York, le 20 octobre 1912.

Cher Monsieur Downer,

J'an été très tarché de votre lettre et des félicitations que vous avey en la bonté de m'adressen. Ja ne nons en ai pas remercé immediatement pence que tent man lemps était alsorbé par de nouvelles experiences d'une telmøjne tres compliquée, et que je vanlais reflichir à la proposition dont vous et M. Finlez avez bren venler m'henoren. Je suis très flatté et touché de votre unitation. mais il me semble que cette fête serait pom må un hennem heancomn trøn grand. Le succès des recherches pan lesquelles le princ Nobel ma eté decemé, est dun à un cencours de circenstances favorables beaucons plus opr'à ma personnelite. Li je n'étais pas nems en amengue, sije n'avais vors rencombs le

De Fleserer, et sigen avais ras travaille dans l'Institut qu'il a si admirallement againsé, gen'aurais nen fait du lait.

En outre, ma raison d'être ent de toure des choses nouvelles. Il me fant donc elimine de ma rie ce qui detournement mon attention de ce lut, et je dois rester dans le siènce.

c'est pangua je ne peux vas accenter votes invitation. Du fond du eaem, je vous en remeral. De n'anclierai pas les apand honnour que vous m'avez fait en voulant aganiser pan mai une fete au College de la cité de New York hayy mai votre très cadialement devané Carrel

## The Laboratories of the ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH 66th Street and Avenue A, New York

New York, 20 October, 1912

Dear Mr. Downer -

I have been very touched by your letter and the felicitations you addressed to me. I have not answered you immediately because all of my time was absorbed by new experiments in a very complicated new technique, and because I wanted to reflect on the proposition with which you and M. Finley have wished to honor me.

I am very flattered and touched by your invitation but it seems to me that this celebration would be a much too great honor for me. The success of the pursuits for which the Nobel prize has been awarded me is due to a concurrence of favorable circumstances much more than to my personality. If I had not come to America, if I had not met Dr. Flexner, and if I had not worked in the Institute which he has so admirably organized, I would have done nothing at all.

Moreover, my object is to find new things. It is therefore necessary for me to eliminate from my life that which would take my attention away from this goal, and I must remain in silence.

That is why I cannot accept your invitation. From the bottom of my heart I thank you for it. I shall not forget the great honor you have given me in wishing to organize for me a celebration at the College of the city of New York.

Your very cordially devoted

Alexis Carrel

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